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Game Face

Official Magazine of the Cleveland Indians

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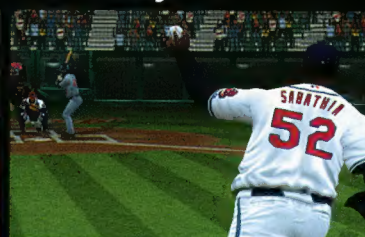
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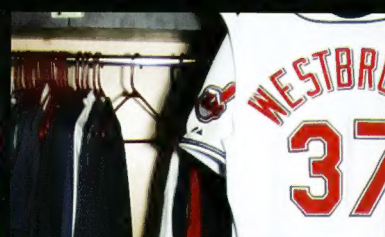
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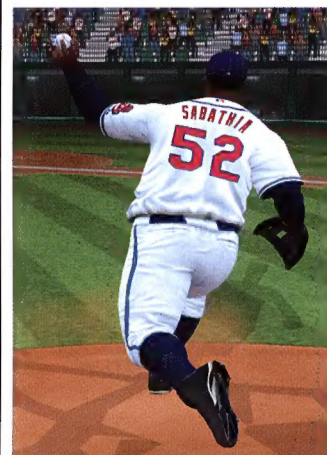
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Photo: Gregory Drezdron



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Changing Lives One Step at a Time



Isn't it amazing that something as simple as walking can make an enormous difference in the lives of millions? One simple step can lead to a cure, or a better understanding of each other and our differences. It is truly fantastic to see the power that we possess and can use to help change lives!

This spring, the Cleveland Indians Wives Association

joined together and walked toward finding a cure for multiple sclerosis. Stacy Datz, our friend and fellow teammate, was diagnosed with MS nine years ago and is praying for that day.

This was our second annual walk in Orlando, Fla., and we will continue to walk with Stacy until a cure for MS is found. Each year, the MS walk brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars for research. All it takes from each of us is a small donation, love, and a stroll through the park. Making a difference has never been so easy!

This month, we will take another step toward changing lives as we walk with supporters of the National Conference for Community and Justice. On May 14, 2005, we will join hundreds of Clevelanders who will step out for diversity at the annual NCCJ Walk as One — Rock as One. This 3-mile walk begins at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and is a leisurely stroll through beautiful downtown Cleveland.

The Walk As One — Rock As One walk-a-thon raises funds to support NCCJ's youth and community leadership

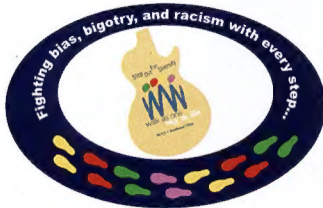
programs. Together, we celebrate progress in fighting bias, bigotry, and racism and take a stand against ongoing issues of intolerance. We would love to see you there! For more information about this event, please log on to the website at walkasonerockasone.kintera.org



You will also see the Indians Wives Association taking steps toward changing lives, as we will be participating in other organized walks throughout the

year. We will be walking for the Women's Center of Greater Cleveland's Run, Jane, Run sports festival, as well as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Race for the Cure. Join us in any or all of these events, and enjoy not only a day out in the sun, but also the gratification of knowing that you have made a difference!

Kate Wedge



Together, we
celebrate
progress in
fighting bias,
bigotry, and
racism and take
a stand against
ongoing issues
of intolerance.

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HOW TO: TURN A DOUBLE PLAY

With Shortstop Jhonny Peralta

FROM THE STANDS OR ON television, a double play looks simple. The infielder fields a ground ball, tosses it to the player at second base, who steps on the bag and fires to first. While the result may look easy, it's actually the product of hours of repetition at Spring Training and during the season.

Just ask Indians shortstop Jhonny Peralta, who is in his first full season in the Major Leagues. Signed as a non-drafted free agent in 1999, he has risen quickly through the Tribe's farm system. Peralta first made it to Cleveland during the 2003 season. He played most of last season at Triple-A Buffalo, where he won the International League's Most Valuable Player Award. Peralta will turn 23 on May 28.

Peralta talks about the mechanics and his responsibility as a shortstop.

The setup: A double play really starts in the dugout — with preparation, says Peralta. "We go over the hitters and get signals [from the dugout] where to play them." Knowing where the ball is likely going to be hit "helps you be in the best position so you can get to the ball faster and make the play," he adds. "If you are in the right spot, it makes a big difference."

The footwork: An important component in turning two, footwork is something Peralta works on continually. "You need to have your balance because you're not sure where the ball

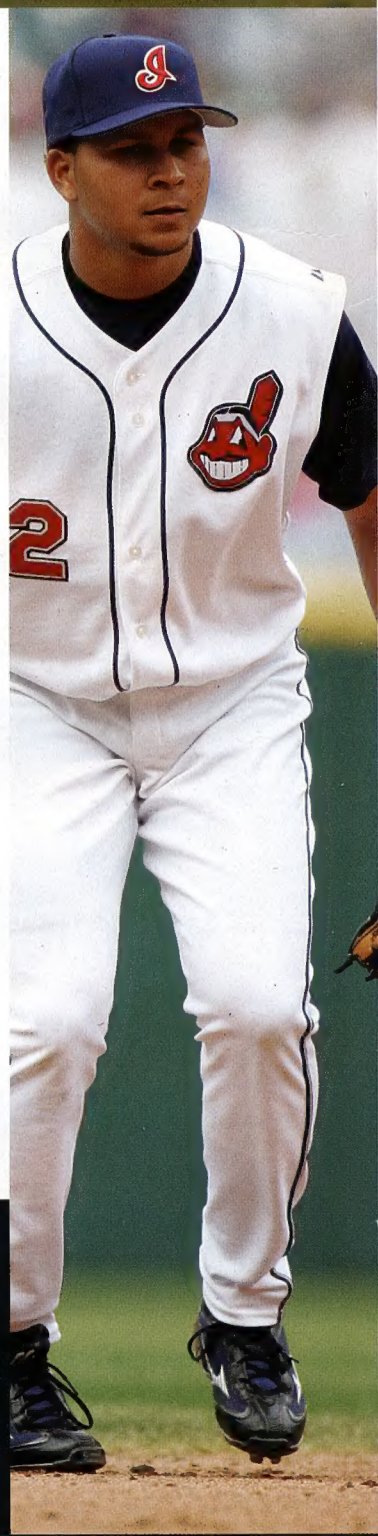
is going to be hit," he says. Having consistent footwork when making the pivot is crucial. "This is the hardest thing," says Peralta. "I try to get to the bag as soon as I can, but I have to be careful not to get my feet tangled up. I like to get to the bag and get set for the throw. That makes it easier for me to be in good position."

The target: When Peralta's making the throw to the second baseman, he tries to hit him in the same spot — about chest-high — every time, so he can catch it and make the throw to first, he says. "I don't want to make it hard for him by throwing it too high or throwing it in the dirt." Peralta attempts to give the second baseman a good target when he takes a throw. "I try to set my glove in the same spot [again, about chest-high] every time, so he knows where it will be," he says.

The turn: A shortstop must catch the throw, get a foot on the bag and make the throw to first, wasting as little motion and time as possible. "I hit the base with my left foot," Peralta says. "I try to come across the base and throw to first. If the ball isn't hit as hard, I don't have as much time and I have to make the throw [from more of an upright position]."

Jhonny's secret: "I don't rush myself. You can't get too far ahead of yourself. If you try to get the ball to the second baseman too fast or you try to throw to first too quick, you might make a mistake."

— Steve Herrick



All photos: Gregory Drezdson

HANDY MAN VICTOR MARTINEZ

is as tough as nails, hammers opposing pitchers, and digs being a leader. And with a new five-year contract, he's a cornerstone for the rebuilt Indians. BY JIM INGRAHAM

MAYBE IT'S IN THE HANDS. The handshake. Yeah, that's it. It's got to be the handshakes.

By now, it's become a tradition. Just before the start of every Indians' game, catcher Victor Martinez makes it a point to pass through the dugout, greeting each and every teammate individually, with a custom-made handshake for that particular teammate.

It's a consistently timed, oddly executed, but sincere form of bonding, founded by the new leader of the new generation of Cleveland Indians.

A new leader who is also the proud owner of a new contract, that, by timing and definition, stamps him as the core player among all core players on the roster. Each era of Indians has its signature player, and Martinez, the Tribe's 26-year-old switch-hitting catcher, appears destined to fill that role in this era.

He is a likeable, respectful, charismatic, and wildly productive hitter, a rarity who is able to not just anchor the Indians' offense while hitting most of last season in the all-important cleanup spot in the batting order, but also the defense, by playing the most physically demanding and perilous position on the field.

All that, and the handshakes, too.

"We always talk pitching in this game, but to me, leadership starts with your catcher," says Indians Manager Eric Wedge. "Your catcher can be — and should be — the backbone of your team."

The Indians' front office apparently agrees, because the day after Opening Day this season, Martinez was signed to a historic five-year contract, with an option

for a sixth year that could keep him in Cleveland through the 2010 season. After just one full season in the Major Leagues, the contract is a testament to the organization's trust in Martinez's ability to be a cornerstone player both on and off the field.

The five-year deal is the second longest in the history of the franchise.

"Victor has all the traits you look for in a core player," says Wedge. "Physically, fundamentally, mentally, he has everything you like to see in a player."

Including the intangibles.

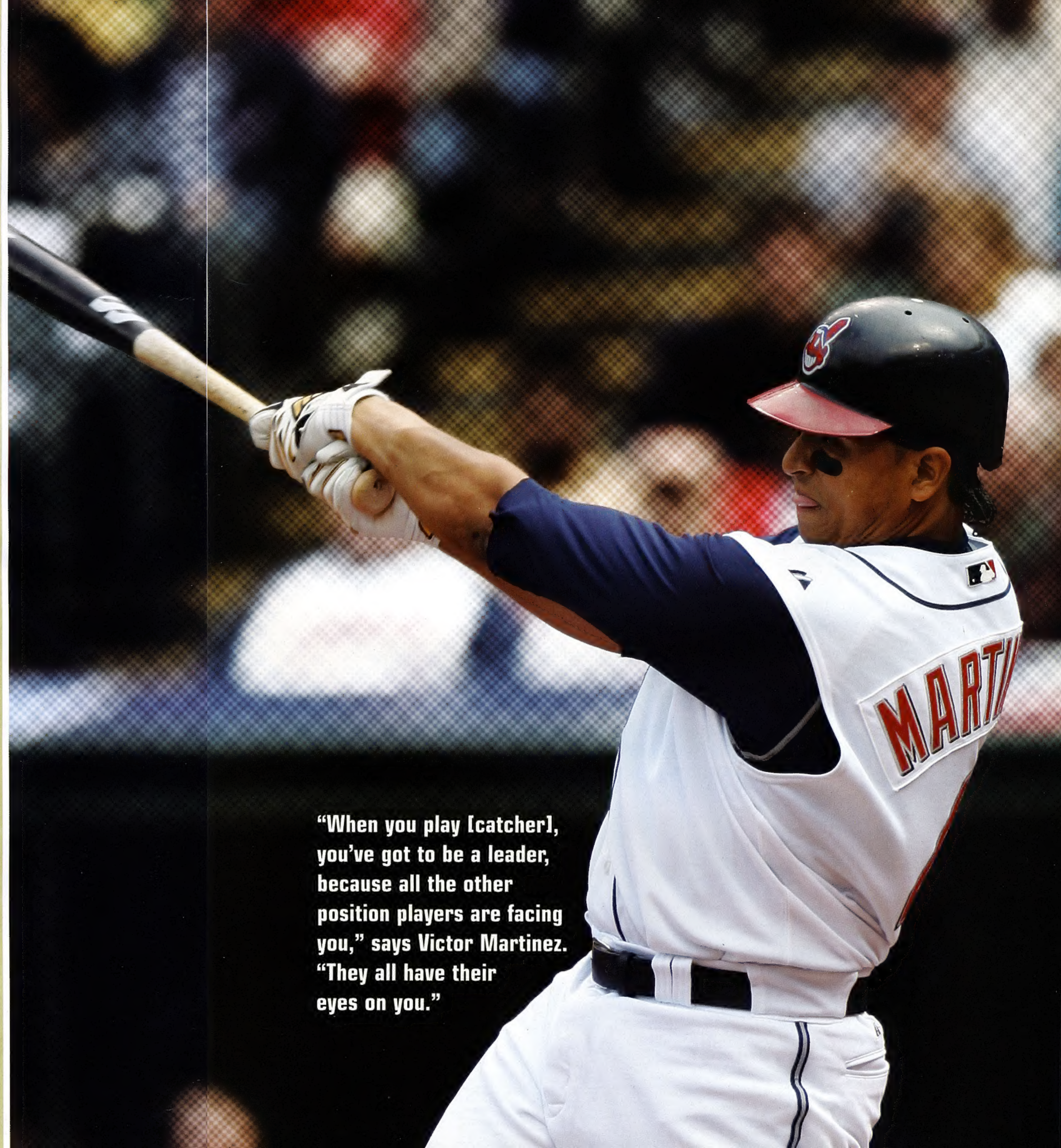
"Catcher is a leadership position," says Wedge. "We put a lot of emphasis on what the catcher means to the team, but you can't force-feed it. Victor has the personality to be able to handle it, but even more importantly, he wants to have that responsibility."

Martinez says being a leader comes with the turf of being a catcher.

"When you play that position, you've got to be a leader, because all the other position players are facing you," he says. "They all have their eyes on you."

Martinez says he didn't consider himself a leader growing up. "I've learned to become one," he says. "It's hard to explain. If you have to think about it too much, that's not good. To be a good leader, you just go out there and do it. It just happens."

A native of Venezuela, Martinez was actually signed by the Indians as a short-stop. But he was quickly converted to catcher. In the Indians' Minor League system, he wasted little time in proving that he was one of the most coveted baseball commodities of all: a tremendously gifted hitter able to play a premium position.



"When you play [catcher], you've got to be a leader, because all the other position players are facing you," says Victor Martinez. "They all have their eyes on you."



Most teams rely on the corner positions — first and third base, left and right field — to be the run-producing positions. For players in the middle of the diamond — catcher, second base, shortstop, and center field — the priority is defense. A player who can play a premium defensive position but who is also a major offensive contributor is worth his weight in gold (or at least silver, since Martinez became the first Tribe catcher to win the Silver Slugger award last season).

Which is one reason why the Indians decided to commit such a long-term contract to their young catcher. In their eyes, Martinez is the full package.

"When all the characteristics in a player that you're looking for align, that's what makes a core player," says General Manager Mark Shapiro. "We believe Victor has all those characteristics. Our belief in him is resolute, and we wanted to make as strong a statement as possible."

The five-year contract, with an option for a sixth year does that. Just as Sandy Alomar was a signature player for the great Indians teams of the 1990s, Martinez appears poised to fill that role for the current generation of Indians.

"He's everything you want in a catcher," says Wedge. "It's personal to him. When his team doesn't play well, or his pitcher doesn't pitch well, he takes that personally."

Wedge still remembers the first time he saw Martinez as a raw, yet accom-

plished Minor League catcher, who won back-to-back Minor League batting titles and MVP awards in 2001 and 2002.

It was Spring Training 2003.

"My first impression was his hands," says Wedge. His hands, when he was catching the ball, really stood out. That, and the fluid swing he had from both sides of the plate."

Martinez hit well at every stop in his climb up the Minor League ladder, and he continued to hit once he reached the big leagues. Last year, his first full season with the Indians, he hit more home runs and had more RBIs than any catcher in the Majors.

Shapiro called that season "spectacular," and refuses to put a ceiling on what Martinez might be able to accomplish during the course of his Major League career.

Indeed, what does Martinez do for an encore in 2005? In 2004, he hit .283, with 23 home runs and 108 RBI, setting Indians team records for most home runs and RBI in a season by a catcher.

It was the kind of a season by the kind of a person that led to the kind of contract that puts Martinez front and center as the new face of the rebuilt Indians.

Pressure? Bring it on.

"I never put any pressure on myself," says Martinez. "The only thing on my mind each day is to do the best I can to help us win."

And to shake as many hands as possible. ■



DECODING



THE HAND JIVE

Victor Martinez is the King of the Handshakes on the Indians. He has created an individual handshake for each of his teammates. At the start of every game, Martinez walks through the dugout and shakes hands with each individual player, using the unique handshake he has created for that player.

"I do it to get everybody fired up and ready for the game," says Martinez. "I have a different one for every player."

Martinez says he sometimes creates the handshake himself, while other times he works with the teammate to create one. The key is to create something distinctive, unlike any of the other players' handshakes.

"Sometimes we'll talk about it and come up with something between us," says Martinez. "The most complicated one is Coco's."

Tribe outfielder Coco Crisp says he and Martinez worked together to develop his handshake.

"Ours is the longest handshake, I know that," says Crisp. "It has a lot of moves to it."

Martinez says he began the handshake tradition while in the Minor Leagues.

"I did it a lot in the Minors, but I didn't have one for every player like I do now," he says.

What do the handshakes look like? Martinez and Crisp both say the handshakes are impossible to describe.

"You just kind of have to see one to understand it," says Crisp.

BEYOND BASEBALL



ADVICE TO YOUR SON IF HE WANTED TO BE A BASEBALL PLAYER:

Work hard, and pay attention to the players in front of you.

FAVORITE MOVIE:

"Catch Me If You Can"

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Salsa

FAVORITE PLAYER GROWING UP:

Ivan Rodriguez

PERSON WHO HAS MOST INFLUENCED YOU:

My mother

FAVORITE TV SHOW:

"Curb Your Enthusiasm"

WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN'T A BASEBALL PLAYER:

I have no idea. I'd probably be working at some job somewhere in Venezuela.

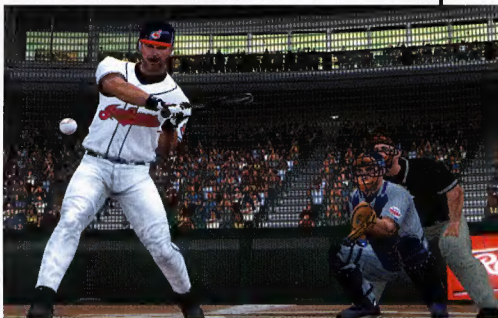


What they're PLAYING

"I'll eat breakfast, take a nap, eat lunch, and go to the park," says Boone, who did play one inning of baseball with Hafner during Spring Training. "I actually went over to Pronk's house in the spring just to look at it one day. I got a couple of hits, then I couldn't get him out."

Ben Broussard owns an Xbox, but rarely plays with any of his teammates. He plays his guitar on the road and leaves the majority of the video game playing to his younger brother, who is still in college.

"Some of these guys, I'll play them [in football] and by halftime it's like, 'OK, enough of this.' I do like [the games], I just don't play them enough," he says. "My brother calls me all the time saying, 'Dude, you hit three bombs yesterday in the game. You're hitting in the three hole.' They have these tournaments all the time and he's always the Indians. Sometimes he acts like it's actually happening."



Bottom of the fourth, deadlocked in a scoreless duel between Sabathia and Minnesota's Brad Radke. But with a runner on first, Broussard hits a long fly to the gap in right center that drops between Torii Hunter and Jacque Jones. The runner on first scores, and while I can't figure out how to get either one of the outfielders to pick up the ball, C.C. decides to send Broussard home. Finally Hunter picks up the ball and fires to the plate, where I see Broussard running at me ... and decide to throw the ball to third for absolutely no reason. Inside-the-park home run. C.C. and the Indians win, 2-0. I managed four hits off him but can't scratch across a run. Even in video games, the Tribe's ace is hard to beat. ■

COCO CRISP

"I've played a lot of games that I like. Madden [NFL], Tiger Woods [PGA Tour], I play all games. Growing up I had Atari and played Frogger on that. Then I had Nintendo and I had every game. Mario Bros. II and III, Contra, Master Blaster, I can name them all. I could go on all day naming them."

TRAVIS HAFNER

"I like war games. I like Medal of Honor, then Madden football and Tiger Woods. I like playing [baseball], too. [In 2003] I didn't have a very good year, so I wasn't rated that high last year. But this year I'm better."

C.C. SABATHIA

"EA Sports does a good job. Really as far as sports games go, those are really the only ones I play — Madden, MVP [Baseball], NBA Live, and Tiger Woods. Adventure games I play Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas and that's really about it."

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Summer Camp Day on **July 21**

Back to School Day on **August 18**

Friday Night Bike Night on **September 9**

Scout Day & Salute to Our Protector's Day on **September 11** (Police, Fire, and EMS)

Check out Page 6 for more details on the Tribe's promotional schedule.

Photo: Gregory Drezdron



Getting some Indians ink on a card, cap, or jersey requires the right tools, some patience, and a friendly attitude.

A Fan's Guide to Autograph Seeking



Photo: Gregory Drezdon

Arrive at the Ballpark early and find a spot along the third-base line, where players such as Grady Sizemore (above), Casey Blake, and Coco Crisp (opposite) are likely to sign autographs.

WITH PENS, MARKERS, SCORECARDS and baseballs in hand, they made a beeline toward the field when the gates opened 90 minutes before the Cleveland Indians' Home Opener on April 11. Minutes later, lined up by the dozens along the third-base line at Jacobs Field as their heroes took batting practice, the hopeful faces of the young and the young at heart alike were brilliantly spotlighted by the bright yellow sun streaming down from the clear blue sky above. If nothing else, it was a great day for baseball.

Judging by the light in their eyes alone, a casual observer would be hard-pressed to differentiate between Patsy Skinner, a 28-year-old lifelong Indians fan from Lima, and her nephew, Mitchell Skinner, a 10-year-old Little League third-sacker. Both sets of eyes grew round as saucers when new Indians' third baseman Aaron Boone sent a screaming line drive skipping up against the wall in the deepest part of center field, and an impressive chorus of *oohs* and *aahs* rose from the awestruck crowd around them.

They were all there, of course, to watch off-season free-agent acquisition Kevin Millwood and the rest of their beloved Tribe take on the Central Division-rival Chicago White Sox — but that's

not all they were after. Scoring an autograph from one of their favorite players would be pretty sweet, too.

"The best time to get autographs from the players is before the game," says Patsy Skinner, who was hoping to collect the signatures

"You can see that the players are actually real people and not just guys you see on TV," Brittany Leader, 20, of Ottawa, says.

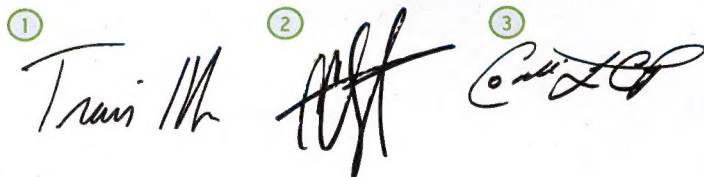
of Travis Hafner and Coco Crisp.

"They're pumped up before the game, ready to mingle with their 10th man. It's much harder after the game, especially if they've taken a loss."

In addition to collecting a souvenir as undeniably cool as an autograph, the personal touch is what keeps fans such as Susan Porter coming out to the Ballpark year after year.

"What I like is being

Can you guess who's SIGNATURES these are?



See signature answers on page 30

Tools of the TRADE

Just as players need the proper equipment to ply their craft, autograph hunters also need to be prepared with their own special tools of the trade. The following handy tips for obtaining autographed items come from Angela Brdar, coordinator of public relations for the Cleveland Indians. And who would know better than Brdar? Her department receives about 400 donation requests per month, ranging from the American Cancer Society to church fund-raisers for playground equipment. For Spring Training alone, they supply about 300 bats, 100 dozen baseballs, and 1,300 photos to be autographed by individual players. During the season, players sign one- to two-dozen items at a time to replenish the supply. Now that's a lot of Indians ink.

BASEBALL:

Use a Bic Cristal Ball Pen (blue). Most pens work fine, but the Bic Cristal Ball Pen will not smear.

LIGHT-COLORED JERSEY, BASEBALL CAP, PHOTOGRAPH, OR WOODEN BAT:

Use a black permanent marker (Sharpie). Black wooden bat or a dark-colored jersey or cap: Use a silver or gold marker. (Sharpie)

HAVE BATS AND BASEBALLS SIGNED ON THE "SWEET SPOT":

Located in the center of the bat, the sweet spot is about 6-1/2 inches down from the end of the barrel. On a ball, it is in the center between the two curved rows of stitches.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

close and talking to the players," says Porter, 45, of Willowick. She recommends showing up when the gates open, heading down to the third-base line near the Indians' dugout, being polite and wishing the players a good game when seeking signatures.

"Getting their autograph just brings the excitement of baseball alive for me that much more."

Mackenzie Brua, 12, of Avon, and her cousin, Brittany Leader, 20, of Ottawa, were out to share a special moment or two with a favorite player. Mackenzie had her heart set on a Casey Blake autograph because he's "really funny, nice, and cute," while Leader fondly recalled the time she met and received an autograph from the "cool and cute" Grady Sizemore.

"You can see that the players are actually real people and not just guys you see on TV," Leader says.

Jeff Kalb, a 19-year-old college student from Geneva, is a bit more hardcore. He showed up at the black fence outside the players' parking lot at 8 a.m. even though the first pitch wouldn't be thrown until 3:05 p.m.

"The players started showing up at around 9 a.m.," says Kalb, producing baseballs from his jacket pockets bearing the signatures of Grady Sizemore, Ronnie Belliard, Jake Westbrook, Travis Hafner, Eric Wedge, Casey Blake, Aaron Boone, Jason Davis, Ryan Ludwick, and Jhonny Peralta.

"It's the main reason why I come out — to meet the players and get their autographs. I'm saving them up to hand down to my kids some day."

The fence outside the players' parking lot is also a great place to collect autographs after the game, says Kalb, who attributes his success to arriving really early and being polite. "You should be nice, treat them with respect, and thank them when they're done." ■

Sign of the TIMES

Even heroes have their heroes. Just ask Cleveland Indians' closer Bob Wickman or offensive-minded designated hitter Travis "Pronk" Hafner. Better yet, ask them personally while getting an autograph before or after any Tribe game at Jacobs Field during the 2005 season. "It's a great way for people to get a close look at us," Wickman says. "When the real fans come out, it's exciting for them and exciting for us as players."

Wickman didn't have the chance to collect

autographs when he was a kid. "But I would have loved to get one from Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers," says the native of Green Bay, Wis.

Wickman's consolation prize wasn't too shabby, though. "I did get Brett Favre's autograph, so that was pretty cool," he says.

Hafner also looked up to ballplayers as a youngster, but he was never lucky enough to get an autograph.

"The closest I ever got was collecting baseball cards," he says. "But if I could have gotten one autograph, it would probably have to be from Cal Ripken. I've always been a big fan of his."

Now with plenty of fans of his own, Hafner considers it an honor to sign for Tribe fans when they come out to the Ballpark.

"The fans have really been great to us, have really been great to our whole team," he says. "Signing for them is just a way to give a little something back for all of the support they've shown us and to let them know that they're appreciated."

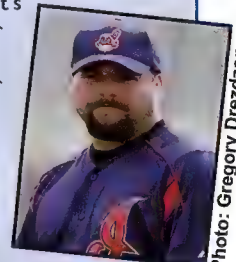
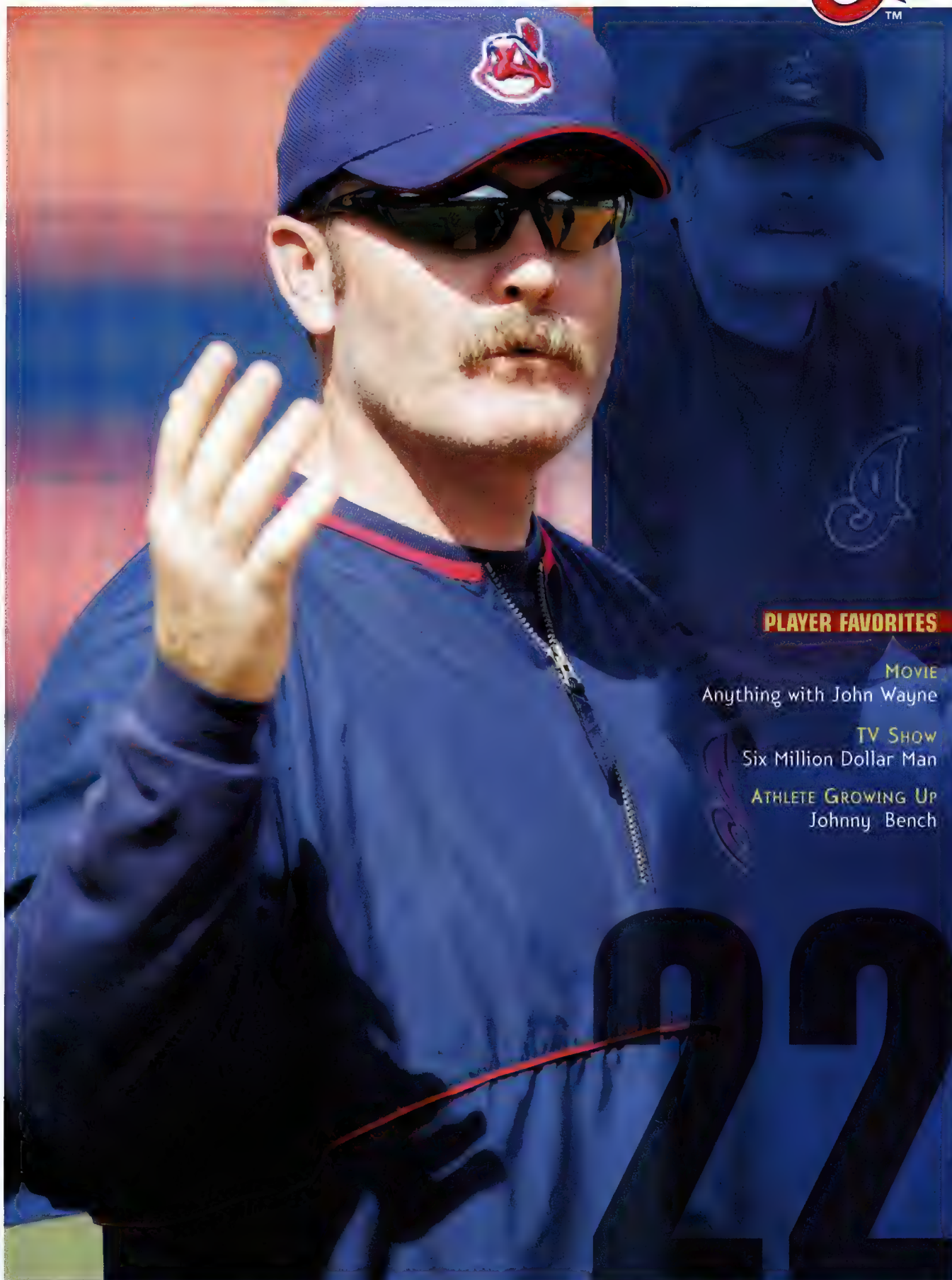


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Signature Answers

1. Travis Hafner 2. C.C. Sabathia 3. Coco Crisp



PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Anything with John Wayne

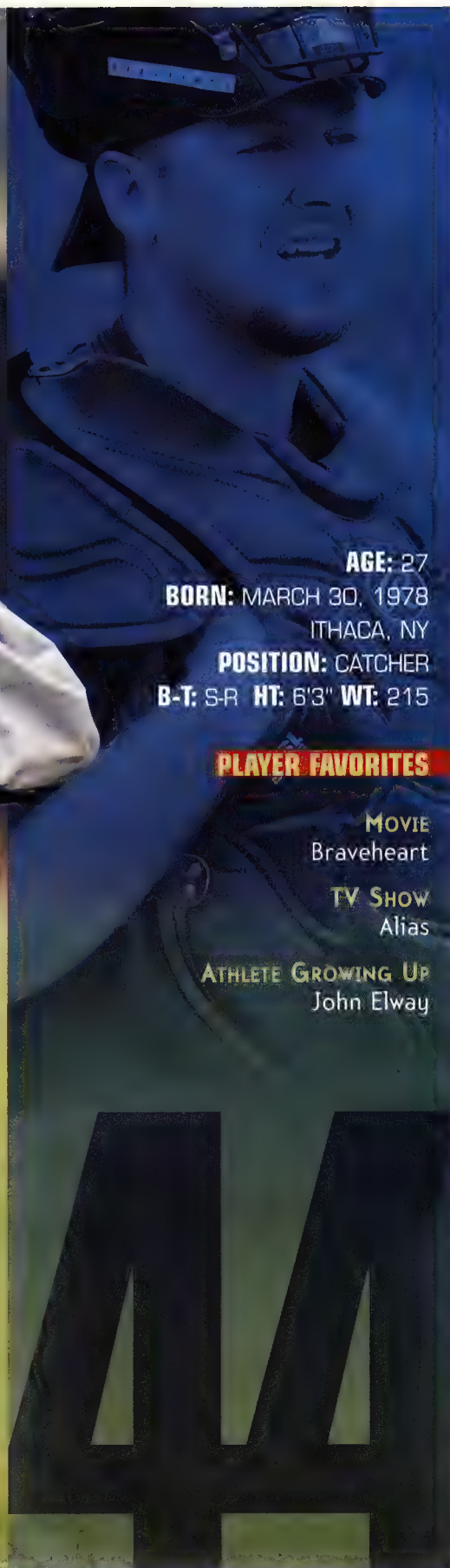
TV SHOW

Six Million Dollar Man

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Johnny Bench

22



AGE: 27

BORN: MARCH 30, 1978

ITHACA, NY

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Braveheart

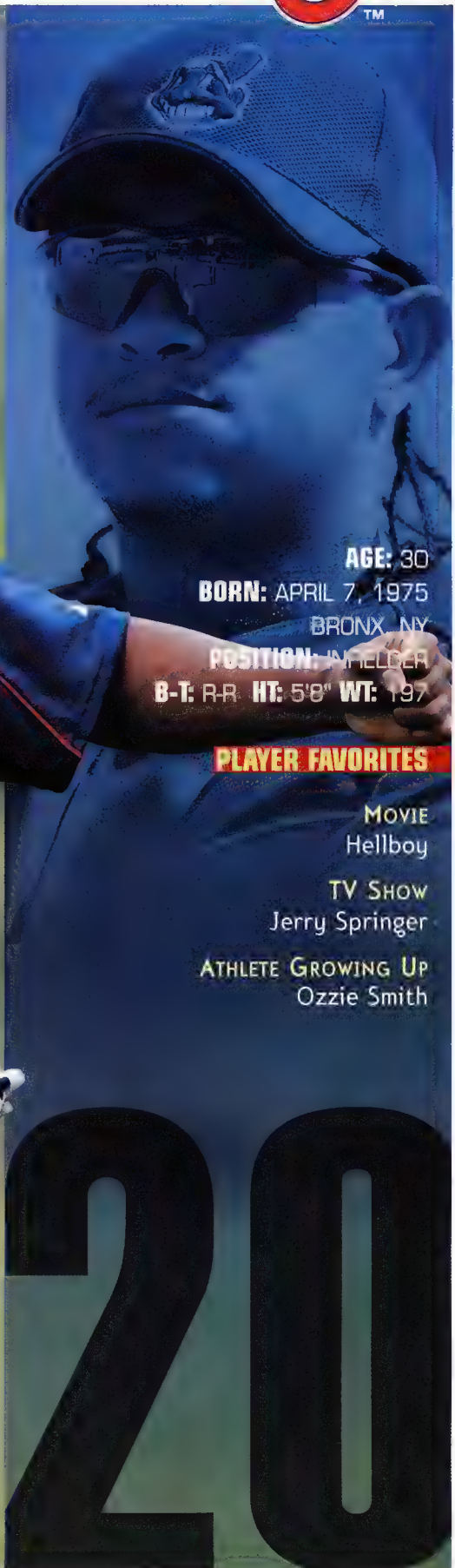
TV SHOW

Alias

ATHLETE GROWING UP

John Elway





AGE: 30

BORN: APRIL 7, 1975

BRONX, NY

POSITION: INFELDER

B-T: RR HT: 5'8" WT: 197

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Hellboy

TV SHOW
Jerry Springer

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ozzie Smith

20



AGE: 30

BORN: APRIL 29, 1975

CUMANA, VEN.

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MUSICAL GROUP/ARTIST

Oscar D'Leon

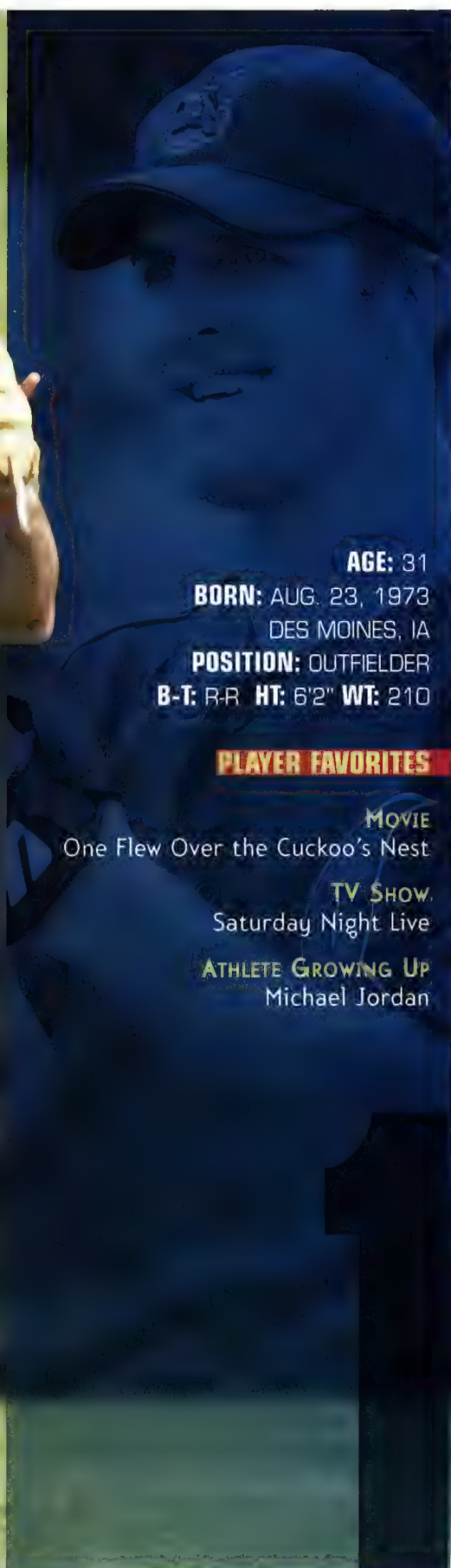
THING TO DO AWAY FROM BASEBALL

Play basketball

ROAD BALLPARK

U.S. Cellular Field

(Chicago White Sox)



AGE: 31

BORN: AUG. 23, 1973

DES MOINES, IA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

TV SHOW

Saturday Night Live

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan



AGE: 31

BORN: MARCH 9, 1974

LA MESA, CA

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Shawshank Redemption

TV SHOW

Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Maurice Cheeks



AGE: 28

BORN: SEPT. 24, 1976

BEAUMONT, TX

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

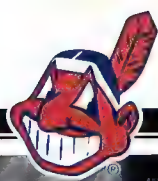
The Matrix

TV SHOW

Law & Order

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Ted Williams



ALEX CORA



AGE: 29

BORN: OCT. 18, 1975

CAGUAS, PR

POSITION: INFILDER

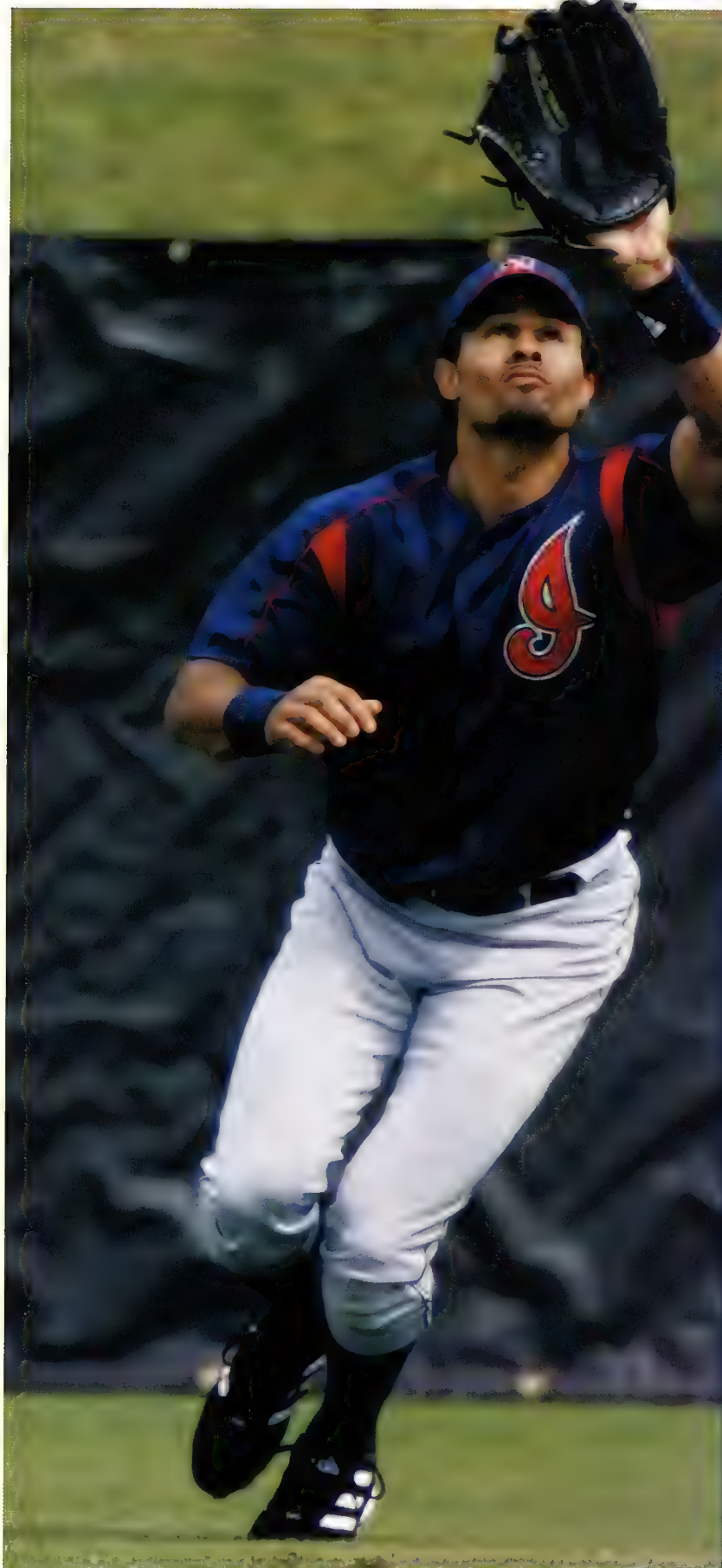
B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'0" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
The Bachelorette

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Roberto Alomar



AGE: 25

BORN: NOV. 1, 1979

LOS ANGELES, CA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'0" **WT:** 180

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Last Dragon

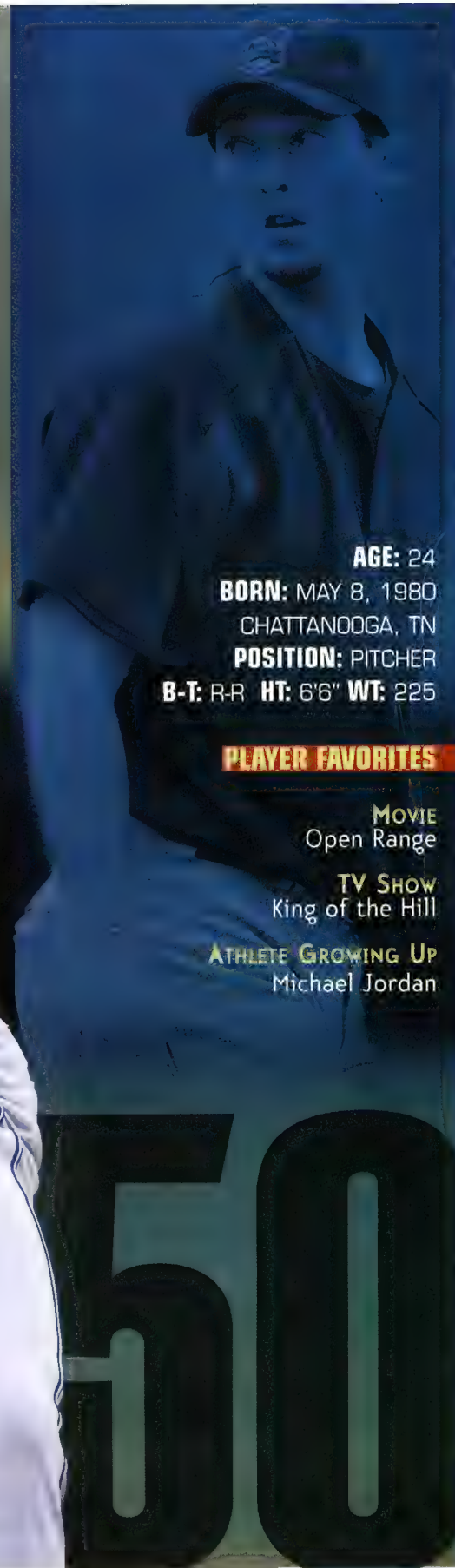
TV SHOW

Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP:

Rickey Henderson

10



AGE: 24
BORN: MAY 8, 1980
CHATTANOOGA, TN
POSITION: PITCHER
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'6" **WT:** 225

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Open Range

TV SHOW
King of the Hill

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Michael Jordan



Other programs through the Indians Community Outreach include:

FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Library System, players, their wives, and front office staff visit various libraries during the summer months to motivate students to read. Indians personnel come and read their favorite books to children in elementary school.

"They really get excited to see and hear the players," says Kim Merryman, public relations director for the library. "This program really provides the human interaction kids want, and they get a chance to learn while meeting their favorite Indians players."

KEYBANK HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

As a participant in the High Achievers Program, Principal Bob Trapp, of Olmsted Falls High School, has the opportunity to reward deserving students with two free tickets to Indians home games. The Cleveland Indians provide the school, along with many others throughout the area in grades 4 through 12, with approximately 70 tickets a season. Trapp distributes the tickets to the Students of the Month for their outstanding classroom work. "The students seem really excited when they win tickets and it's also a nice surprise," he says.

KeyBank and the Indians have provided nearly 200,000 tickets to deserving students since 1994. In addition, through the KeyBank Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program, almost 75,000 free tickets have been distributed to assist the underprivileged, seniors, and the disabled since Jacobs Field opened.



Brenda and Ben Broussard have a great time reading to kids and their families at the Brooklyn Library branch.

PLAIN DEALER TRIBE REPORTER FOR A DAY

For Dana Raponi, working as the Tribe Reporter for a Day was "definitely an eye-opening experience." Designed for high school students considering journalism careers, the program gives 25 essay-contest winners the opportunity to get behind the scenes of an Indians reporter's workday.

Participants choose to be a photographer, sports writer, or television journalist. Raponi and her group toured the Ballpark, attended a press conference with Manager Eric Wedge, and watched batting practice before the game. (The highlight was when Omar Vizquel came over to say "Hi.") "It was a once-in-lifetime experience," she says.

BOONE'S BUDDIES PRESENTED BY MEDICAL MUTUAL

Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland and their families will receive tickets and food-and-beverage coupons, and sit along the third base line to cheer on Boone every Saturday during the 2005 season.

— Beth Stallings

THE BOOK BOYS

Indians players participate in the FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM each year to motivate kids to read. But what books have these Tribe sluggers turning the page?



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

JODY GERUT:

*Flags of our Fathers:
Heroes of Iwo Jima,
James Bradley and
Ron Powers*

CASEY BLAKE:

*Tuesdays with Morrie,
Mitch Albom*

BEN BROUSSARD:

*Angels and Demons,
Dan Brown*

Join **CLUB LOUNGE** at JACOBS FIELD **THE CLUB**

C CLUB SEAT TICKET holders are getting a chance to experience Tribe games in ways fans have until now only dreamed about. Imagine all-you-can-eat food in your seats or in a sports bar atmosphere while still having a perfect view of the game.

Yes, the laminated menus have disappeared from the Club Seats, but so has the need to bring your wallet. That's right, hot dogs, soda, popcorn, and other traditional Ballpark items, delivered by vendors, are now free in the Club Seats.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

In addition, ticket holders can now enjoy complimentary food and non-alcoholic beverages in the Club Lounge, where almost 20 large, flat-screen TVs ensure you'll never miss a single moment of the action. And besides the regular Ballpark food, the Club Lounge offers a specialized carving station, pasta bar, daily international specials, and ice cream.

"You can go in there and never pull your wallet out," says Bill Lavelle, Indians Director of Luxury Seating. "That's a pretty cool deal." He added that this is a great comfort for companies that give Club Seat tickets to employees and clients. "Now employers can give



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

their workers and customers a \$75 ticket and not worry about them having to pay for anything," explains Lavelle.

"I think it's a terrific value," says John Betchal, who has owned Season Tickets in the Club Seats for 10 years. "You get the combination of great baseball, a comfortable seat, along with blue-ribbon food."

Also new this season are Chalk Talks, which provide Club Seat holders an exclusive, inside look at the Tribe. Four times throughout the season, press-conference style Chalk Talks will be held for Club Seat ticket holders on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additionally, Club Seat members can meet the players in a re-laxed setting at the Tribe Celeb-riety Cook-off. The free event occurs once a season with five or six Indians players and/or coaches cooking and serving their favorite recipes to Club Seat owners. "The players really enjoy doing it," says Lavelle.

Last year, participants included Eric Wedge, Victor Martinez, and Matt Miller.

"That's just pure fun," Betchal says. "It's a variety of players' favorites and it is interesting to match the player's personality to the food."

Sound good so far? Well it's about to get even better with the ticket-buying options offered this season. Fans have the option of purchasing tickets for 40 games at a one-season commitment or they can purchase 81 games (a full season), with either a one-year or a three-year commitment. "The longer the commitment you make, the lower the price of a ticket," Lavelle says. Tickets

for Club Seating can also be purchased on an individual game basis for groups of 10 or more people.

With new signage, furniture and flat-screen TVs constantly airing

the in-house feed in the lounge, "fans never lose a feel to the game," Lavelle assures. The seating runs on the 200 level, down the first base line and halfway into right field.

"It's a perfect view and a great way to experience the game," Lavelle says.

— Beth Stallings

"The longer the commitment you make, the lower the price of the ticket," says Bill Lavelle, Indians Director of Luxury Seating.

A SUITE DEAL

For fans who want an exclusive experience without losing a feel for the game, Suites are a smart choice. The game can be viewed from inside the climate-controlled Suite — with its two TVs, refrigerator and wet bar — or out on the private balcony.

Twelve tickets and three parking passes are included with the purchase of the Suite. In addition, the Suites offer a private rest room, catering by Well Bread, which includes a dessert cart and hot-roller grills for hot dogs, a concierge, and a personal Suite attendant.

Suite holders receive discounts at the Team Shop and promotional giveaways during each game. They also have an opportunity to taste-test new Ballpark foods, which not only gives them a chance to have a part in Ballpark decisions, but also lets holders meet other Suite holders and allows a great networking opportunity.

And as a thank you, the Tribe hosts Suite Holder Workout Days in which Suite holders are treated like Indians players for the day, dressing in the locker rooms, having their names announced as they run out onto the field, and then hitting off Indians alums. "It's a day to be a Major Leaguer," says Lavelle.

Suites can be reserved in full- or partial-season plans, including 81 games (full season), 40 games (half season), 20 games, and the newly introduced nine game outfield Suite. "This new option was created to give almost everyone an opportunity to explore the Suites as an option," explains Lavelle. Even small businesses can take advantage of the nine-game plan to offer clients a unique experience. "It's an upscale service with endless rewards," Lavelle promises. — Beth Stallings





AGE: 29

BORN: FEB. 23, 1976

LAMAR, CO

POSITION: PITCHER

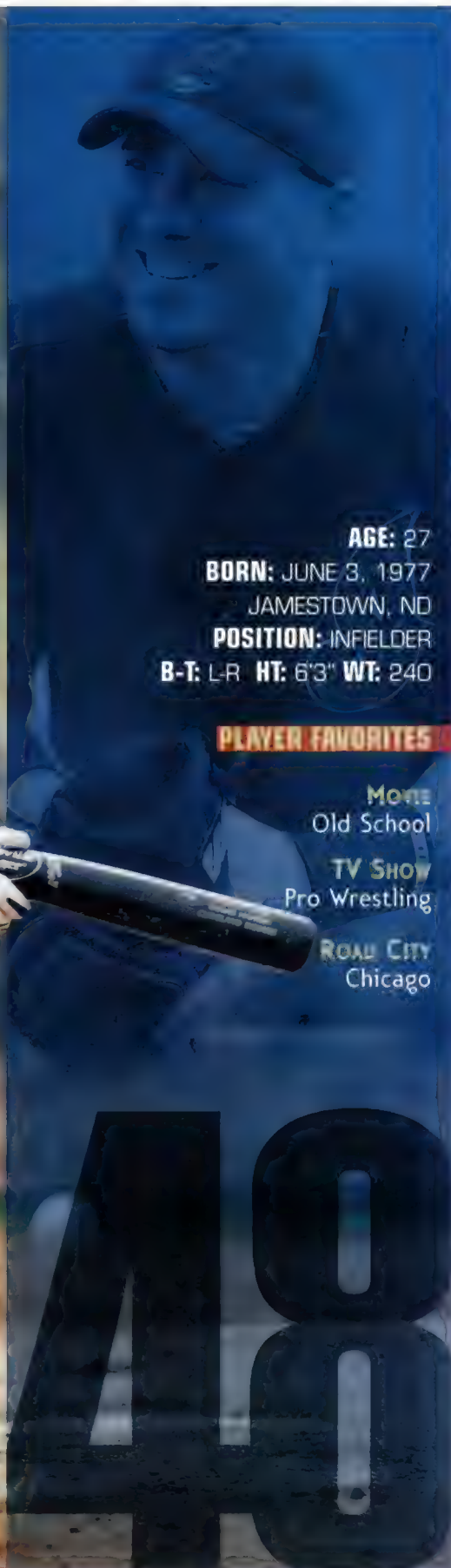
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'8" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
The Sting

TV SHOW
King of the Hill

ATHLETE GROWING UP
"My brother, Ryan"



AGE: 27

BORN: JUNE 3, 1977

JAMESTOWN, ND

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MUSIC
Old School

TV SHOW
Pro Wrestling

HOME CITY
Chicago





AGE: 35

BORN: JULY 14, 1969

VEGA ALTA, PR

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 190

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Professional

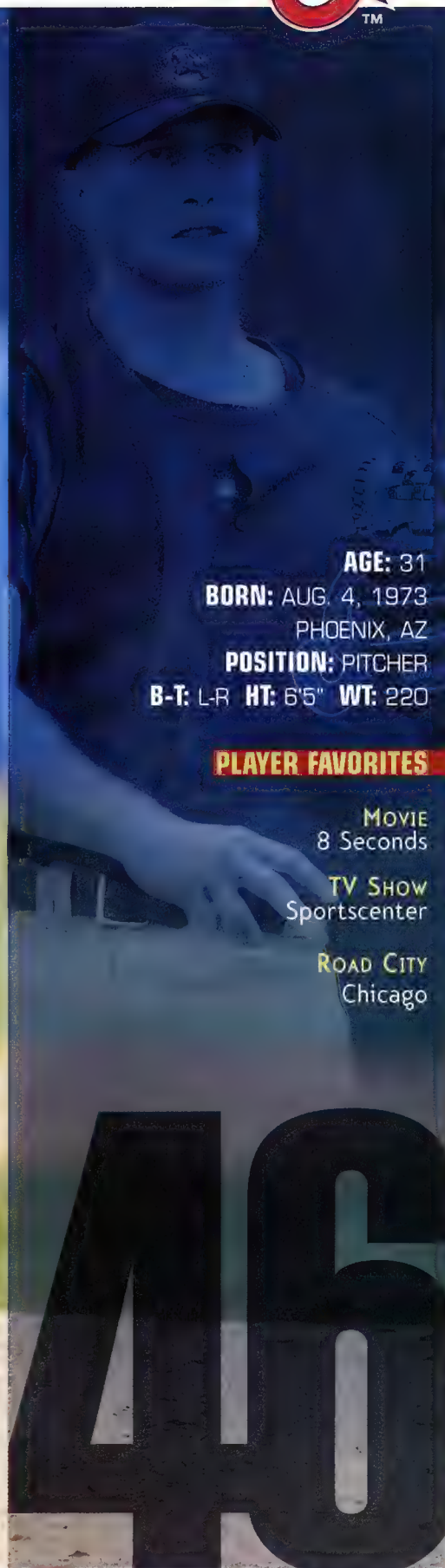
TV SHOW

Martin

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Ozzie Smith

11



AGE: 31

BORN: AUG. 4, 1973

PHOENIX, AZ

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'5" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

8 Seconds

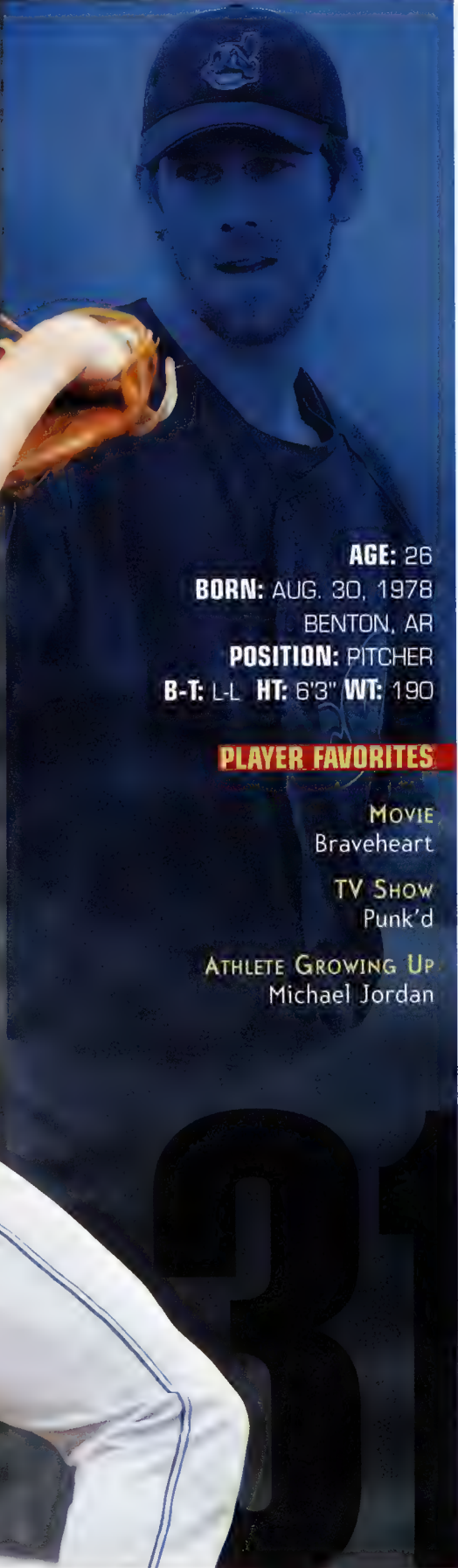
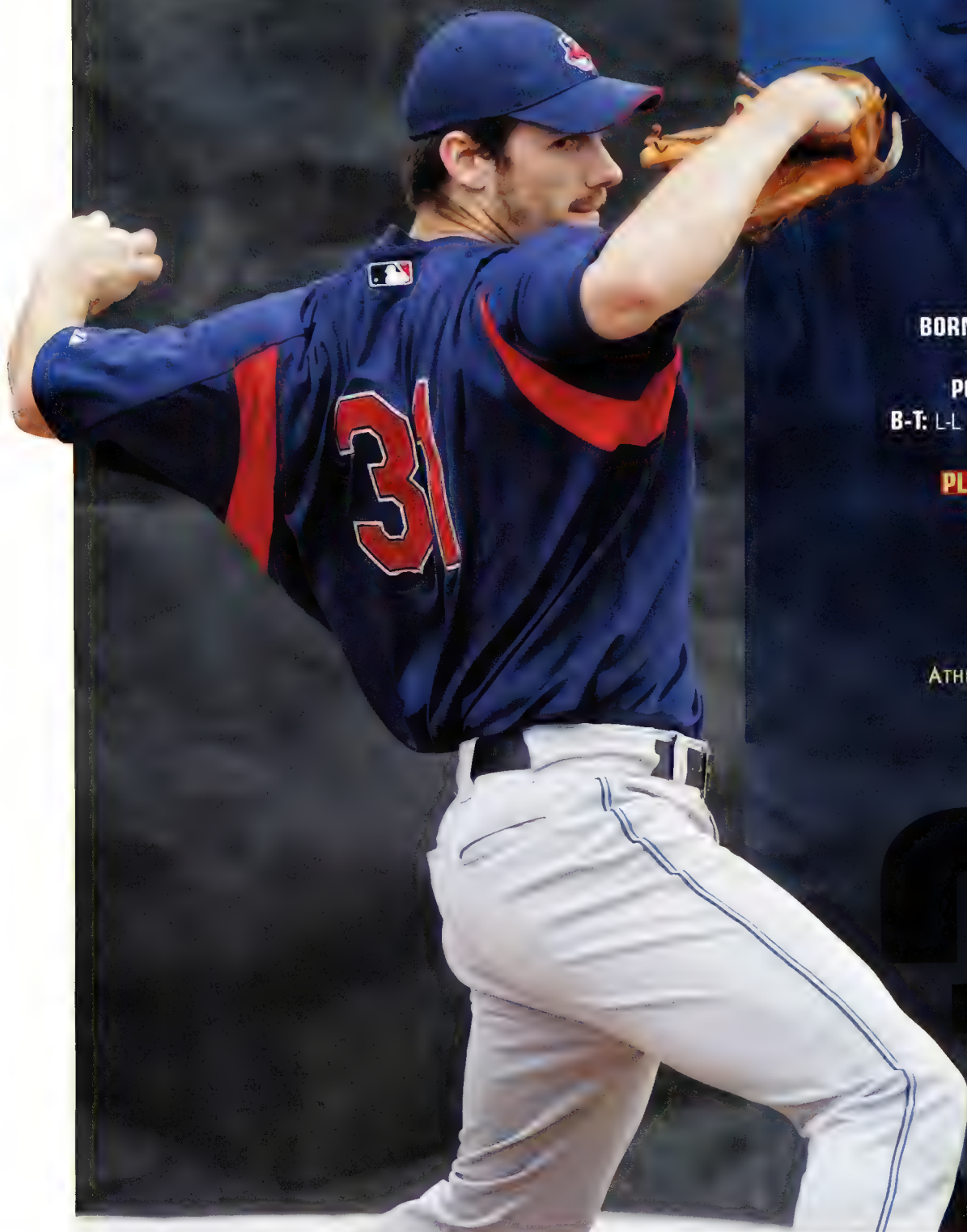
TV SHOW

Sportscenter

ROAD CITY

Chicago

46



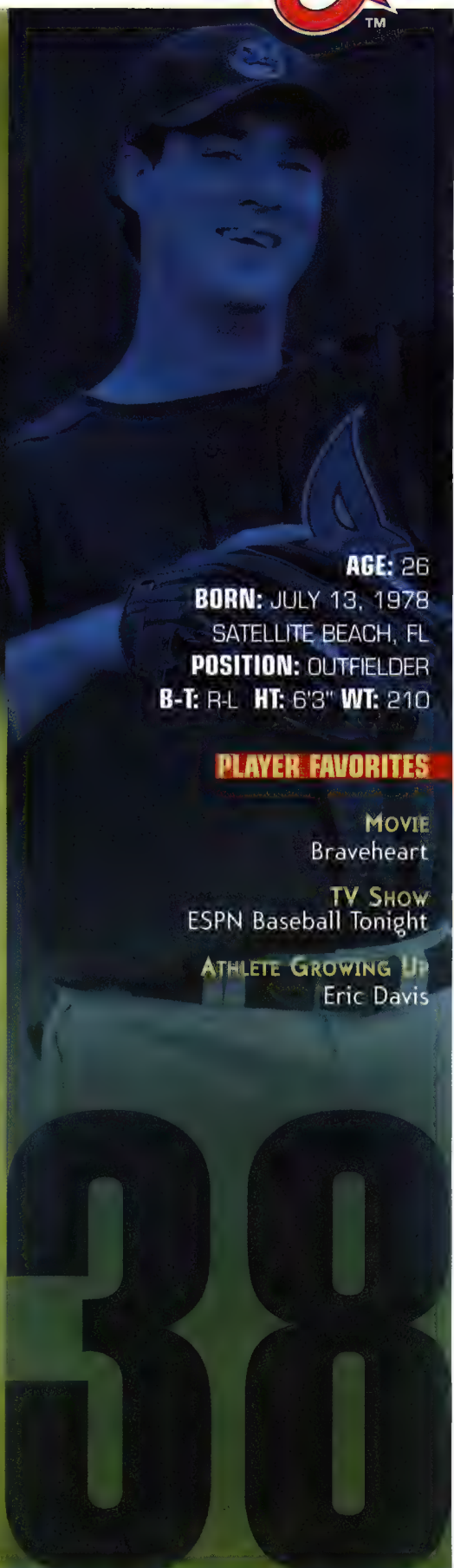
AGE: 26
BORN: AUG. 30, 1978
BENTON, AR
POSITION: PITCHER
B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 190

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Braveheart

TV SHOW
Punk'd

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Michael Jordan



AGE: 26

BORN: JULY 13, 1978

SATELLITE BEACH, FL

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: R-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Braveheart

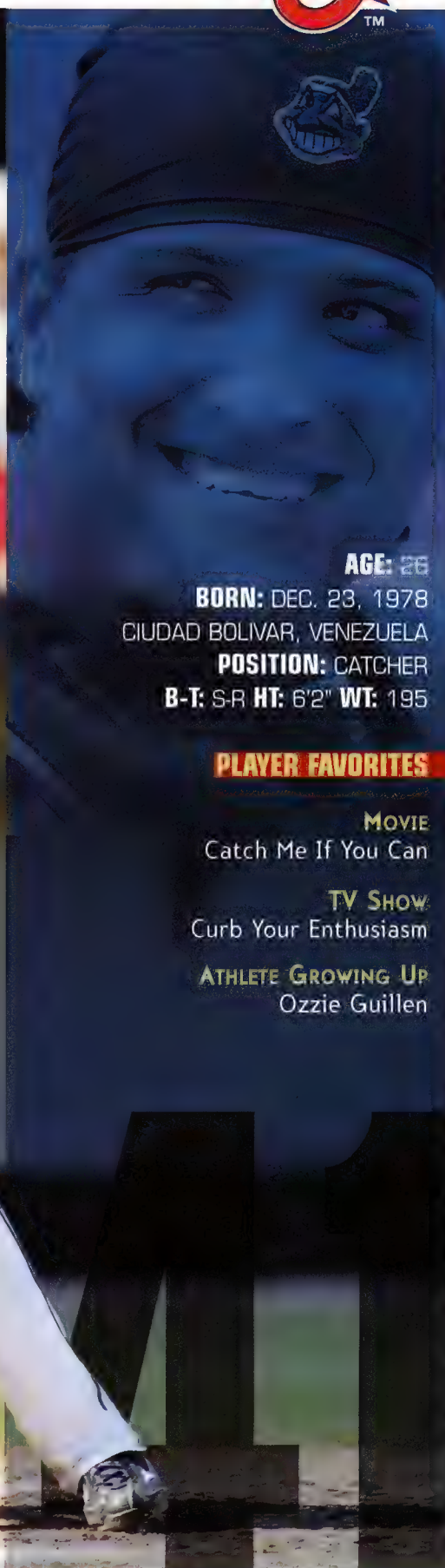
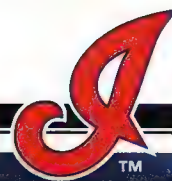
TV SHOW

ESPN Baseball Tonight

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Eric Davis

38



AGE: 26

BORN: DEC. 23, 1978

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, VENEZUELA

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 195

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

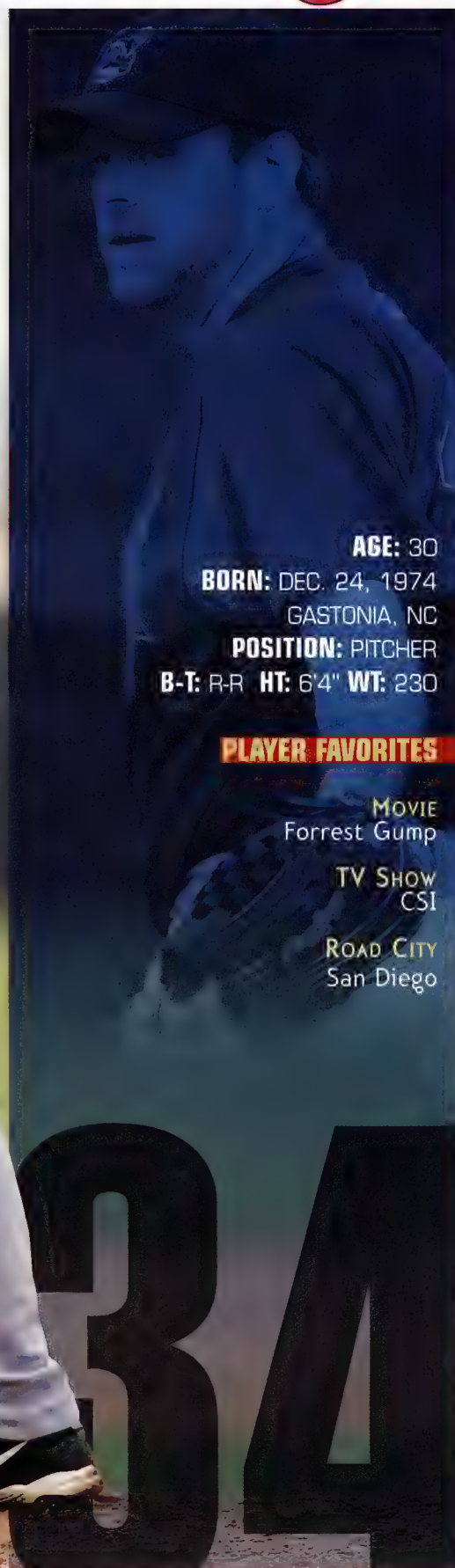
Catch Me If You Can

TV SHOW

Curb Your Enthusiasm

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Ozzie Guillen



AGE: 30

BORN: DEC. 24, 1974

GASTONIA, NC

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'4" **WT:** 230

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Forrest Gump

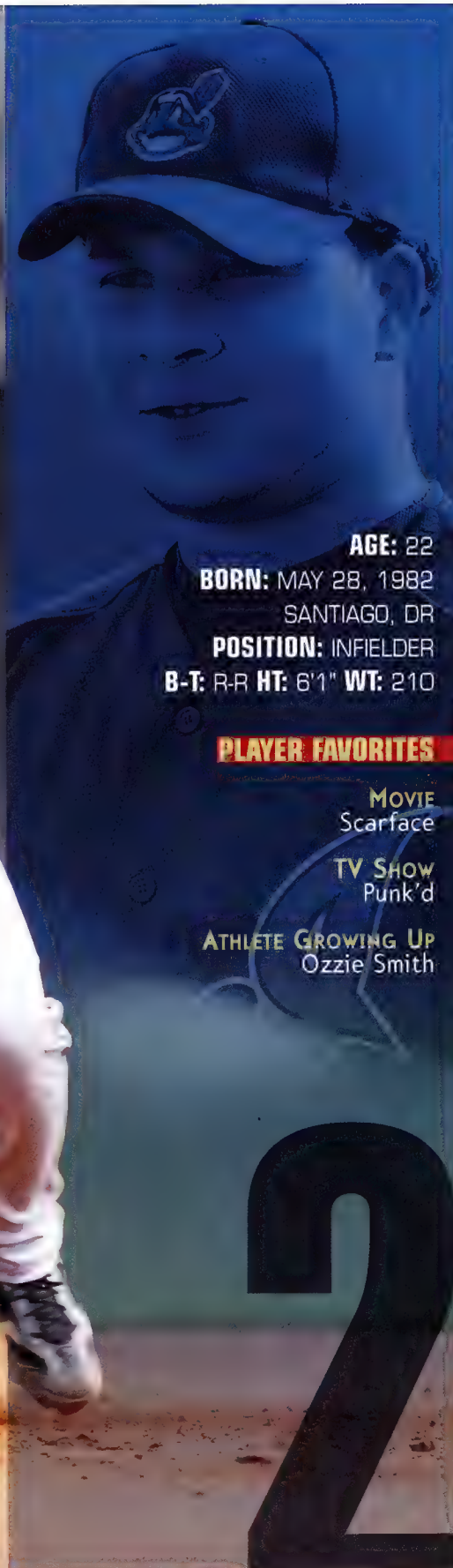
TV SHOW

CSI

ROAD CITY

San Diego

34



AGE: 22

BORN: MAY 28, 1982

SANTIAGO, DR

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
Punk'd

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ozzie Smith

2



AGE: 35

BORN: OCT. 24, 1969

WACO, TX

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 212

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Hitch

TV SHOW

Medium

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Nolan Ryan



AGE: 28

BORN: OCT. 23, 1976

RENTON, WA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 180

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Blue Chips

TV SHOW

Best Damn Sports Show Period

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

54



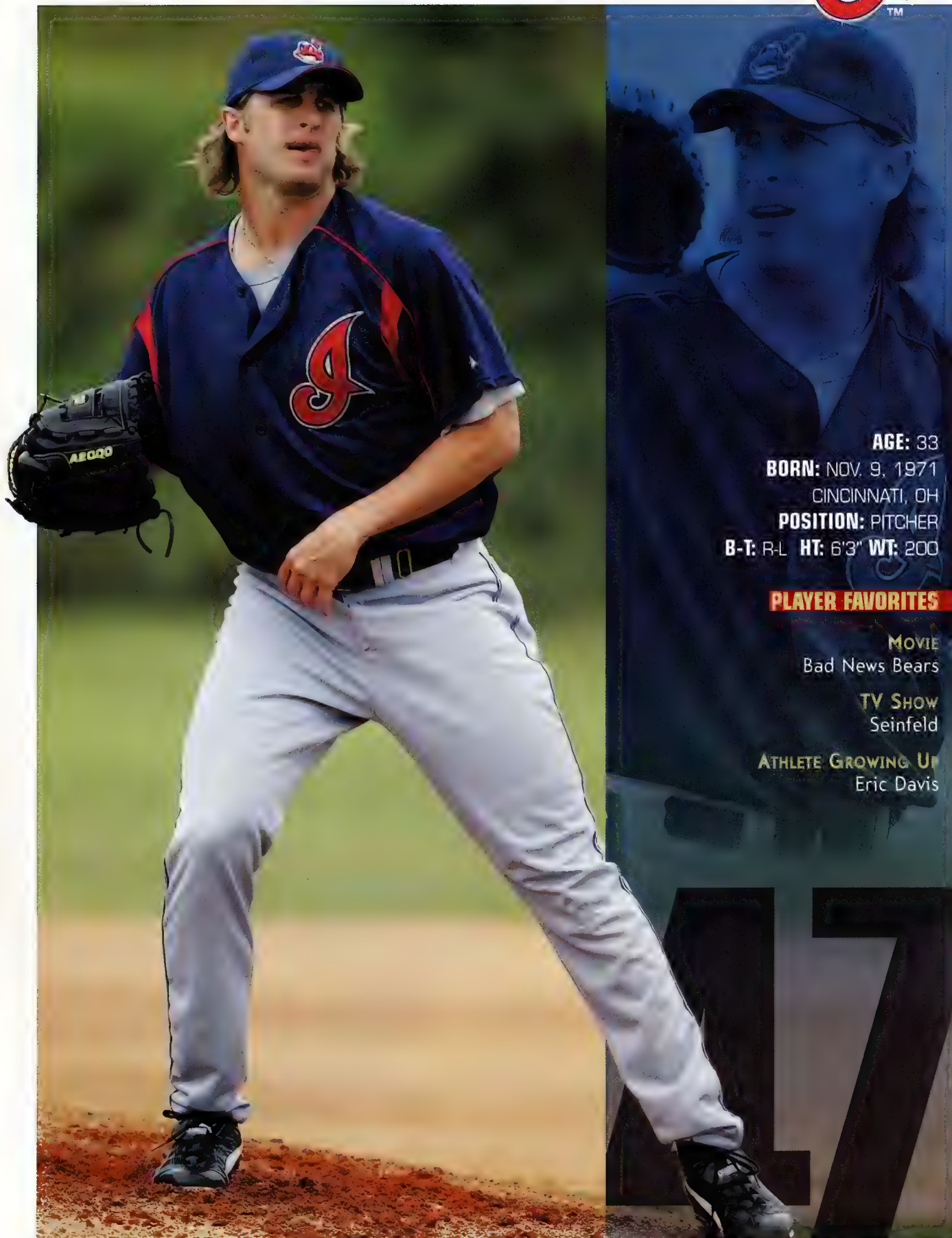
AGE: 24
BORN: JULY 21, 1980
VALLEJO, CA
POSITION: PITCHER
B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'7" **WT:** 290

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
CSI

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ken Griffey Jr.



AGE: 33

BORN: NOV. 9, 1971

CINCINNATI, OH

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Bad News Bears

TV SHOW

Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Eric Davis





AGE: 22

BORN: AUG. 2, 1982

SEATTLE, WA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MUSICAL GROUP/ARTIST

Pearl Jam

THING TO DO AWAY FROM BASEBALL

Play video games

ROAD CITY

Chicago



HALF-OFF BLEACHER SEATS AT JACOBS FIELD ARE BACK.



Photo: Gregory Dredzon

Pepsi and the Tribe...

A Winning Combination!

NOW through the end of May, present your Pepsi can at any Jacobs Field gate on the day of the game, or in advance at any Indians Team Shop location and online by visiting indians.com to buy a **\$12 BLEACHER SEAT FOR ONLY \$6**. Half-price offer also on Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and Dr. Pepper cans.



Belden Village, Canton
Great Lakes Mall, Mentor
Great Northern Mall, North Olmsted
Jacobs Field

Midway Mall, Elyria
SouthPark Centre, Strongsville
Summit Mall, Fairlawn

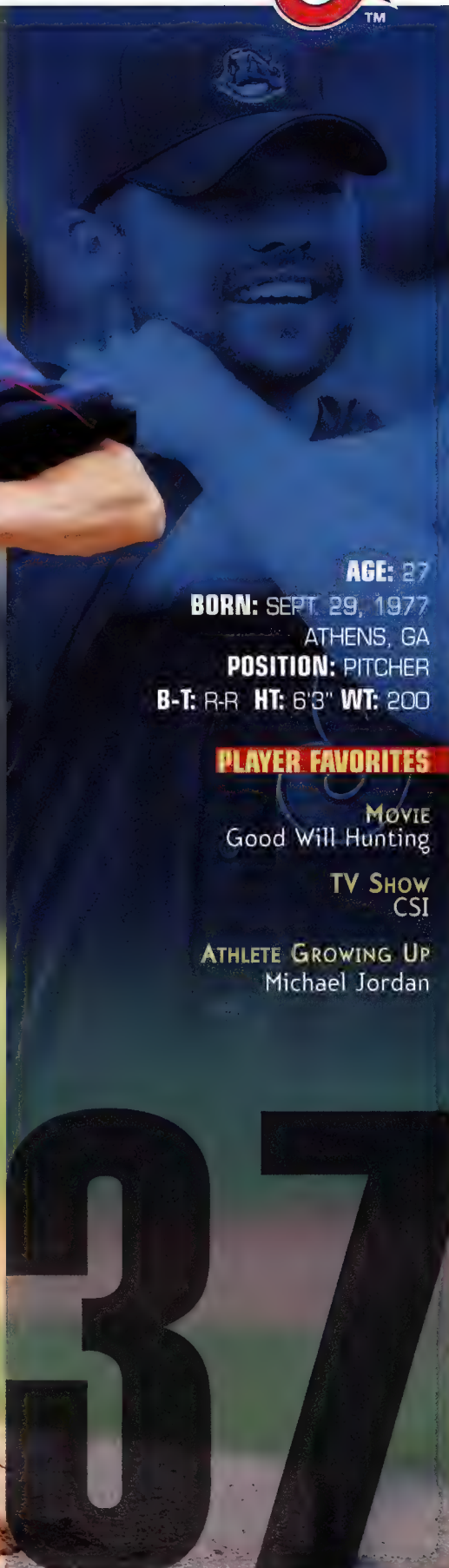
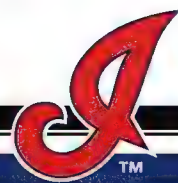


Preferred by



Enjoy Indians baseball all season long.
GREAT SEATS AVAILABLE

at 216.420.HITS or indians.com.



AGE: 27

BORN: SEPT. 29, 1977

ATHENS, GA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Good Will Hunting

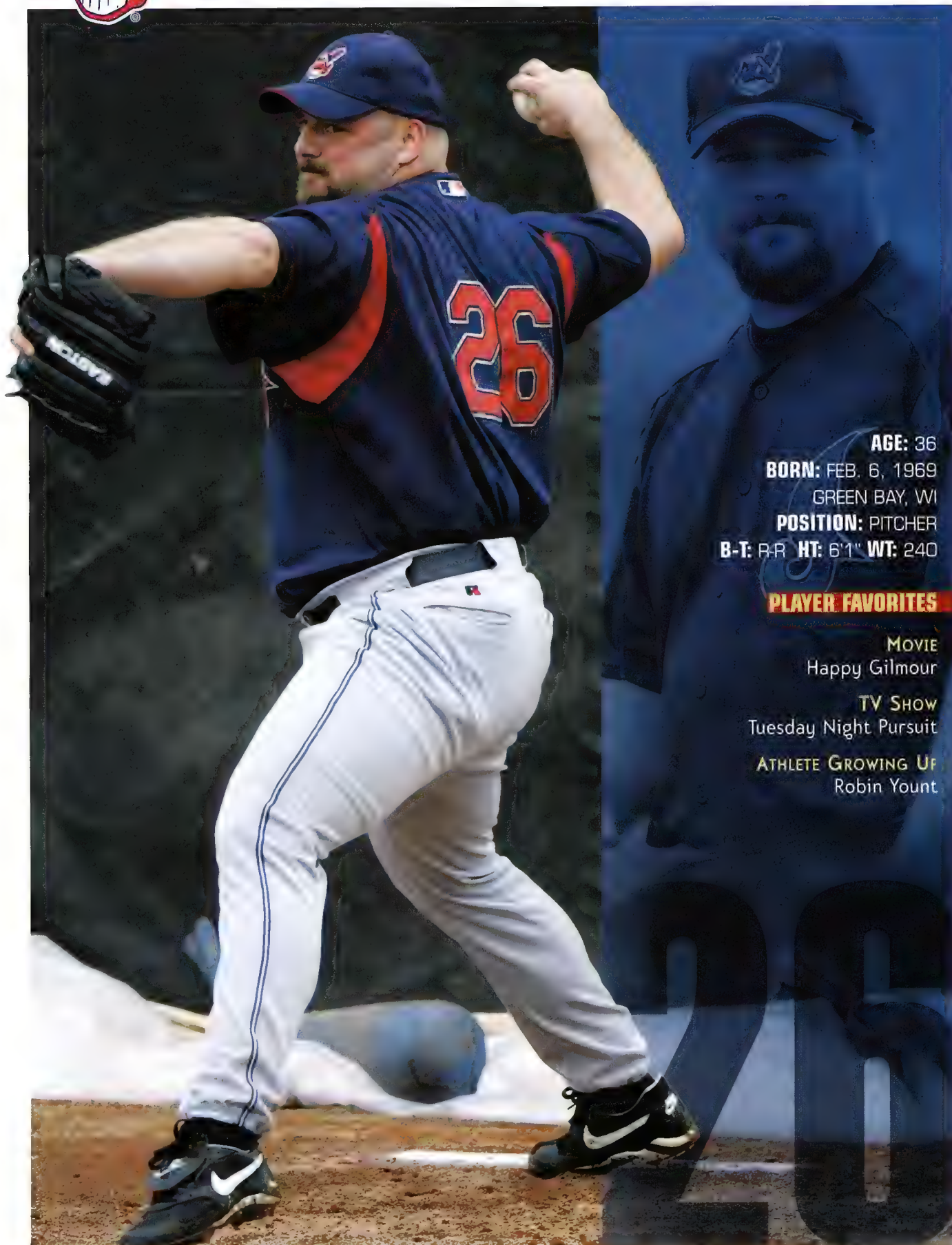
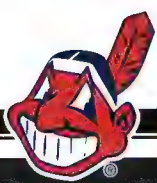
TV SHOW

CSI

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

37



AGE: 36

BORN: FEB. 6, 1969

GREEN BAY, WI

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Happy Gilmore

TV SHOW

Tuesday Night Pursuit

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Robin Yount

Creating Memories... *and your own Slider!*

My FAVORITE Indian

A sweet swing, quick feet, or just cool equipment. The Indians' youngest fans reveal why they love the Tribe.

Juan Gonzalez

"Juan Gonzalez because I collect his baseball cards and he plays the same position I do."

— Matt Kirallah, age 9



Gregory Drezdron

Coco Crisp

"Coco Crisp is my favorite

because he's fast, he's a good hitter, he likes the game, and he reminds me of cereal and Coca Cola."

— Adam Cristal, age 7

Jake Westbrook

"Jake Westbrook because he has really good aim and strikes the batters out a lot."

— Jiana Koussa, age 10

Victor Martinez

"Victor Martinez because he's the catcher and he gets to wear the most fun equipment."

— Mike Betor, age 11



Gregory Drezdron

Casey Blake

"Casey Blake because he gets a lot of action."

— Gabriella Koussa, age 8



Not just for kids, the Make Your Own Slider by Build-A-Bear Workshop was lined with adults on Media Day who rediscovered their love for squeezable, huggable bears... and of course, Slider!

As I waited in line, I pondered my selection of the one-of-a-kind Indians Ballpark Bear and possibly dressing it up as an Indians cheerleader or Slider, with his fuzzy fuchsia and yellow fur, as a superhero complete with his own cape.

Having been an Indians fan almost since the day I was born, I chose the much-loved mascot. With my new best friend in hand, I made my way to the large red machine with cotton tumbling inside, waiting to bring Slider to life.

Enthusiastic employees who seemed to enjoy the experience as much as I did helped me pick out Slider's small stuffed heart, which comes in either solid red or polka dots. Finally, after much anticipation, it was my turn to let Slider be filled with fluff.

Shirley, who was in charge of the stuffing machine, placed the heart in my hand and told me to make a wish as I placed it by my own heart. I spun around in a circle three times (for extra luck, I guess) before she put the heart inside my new little friend.

Of course, I wished for a winning season ... maybe even a World Series Championship. But I didn't want to be too greedy.

After Slider was stuffed to my liking (customers can choose either firm or squishy, I chose the latter), Debbie stitched him up. After getting Slider dressed, I sat down at a computer where I could key in personalized information to make Slider my very own, complete with a birth certificate.

The bright blue sky and the energy inside Jacobs Field on the day I took my Slider home put me in the mood for what promised to be a season worth watching. Kenny Lofton Slider, born April 4, 2005, is my new gametime companion. You'll find both of us decked out in our Indians jerseys as we root on the Tribe.

— Kim Schneider



The Build-A-Bear Workshop is located near Section 142. Prices start at \$24. Costumes and outfits, including biker jackets and pink uniforms, cost between \$5 and \$15.



It's SLIDER TIME! ANSWERS!

**Saturday
in the
PARK!**

MAY Day!

O C G K E H Z H A M B U R G E R C T B E G P A Y A H I X J P F U D U J G D M B
N C T T B T S I A F K A L C L Q N U P A H L N J M Y E R V S M I L V G V I N U
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L H Z G D I B P F E E D K T P B P Q O D N N G T I J B L B M K T Q R J S Q T G W
G C G A O L I K P V Q S N V P W O D H G S S I S X U V T A B Q A J M I N Q L T H

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Photo: Gregory Drezdzen

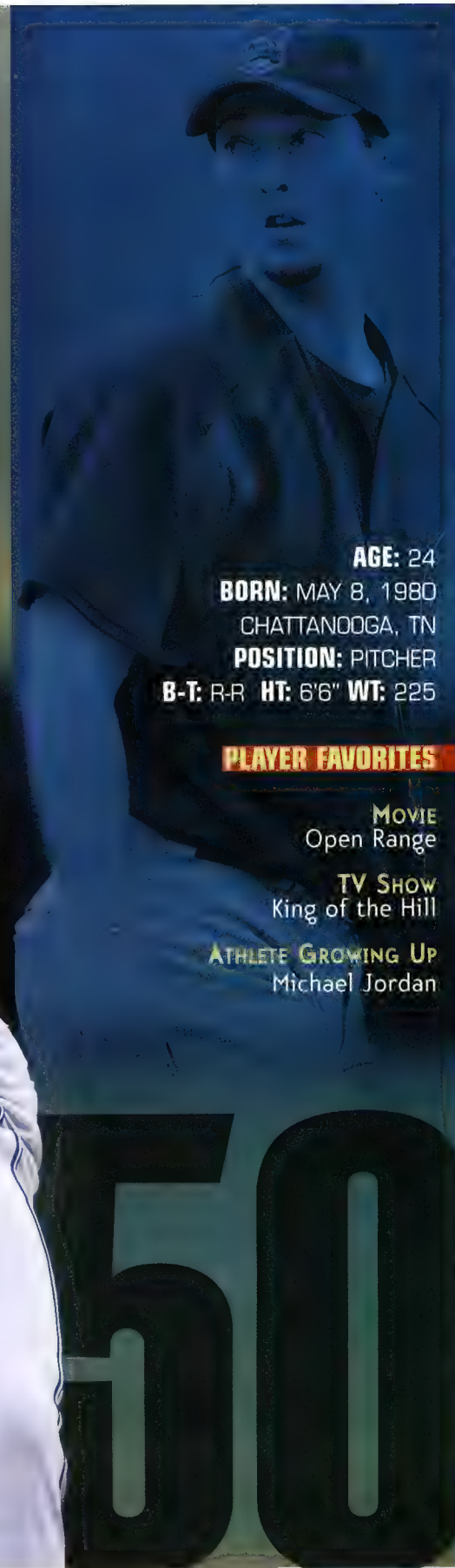
KIDSLAND AT JACOBS FIELD

... A Special Place for Kids

Kidsland is located behind Section 117

**University Hospitals
HealthSystem**


Rainbow Babies
& Children's Hospital



AGE: 24

BORN: MAY 8, 1980

CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'6" **WT:** 225

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Open Range

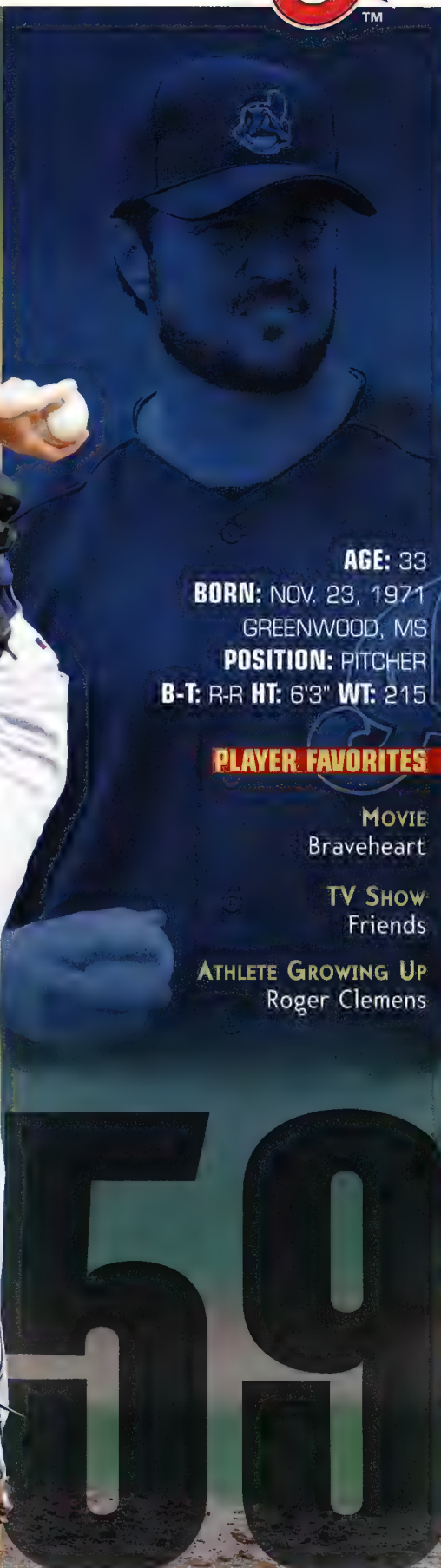
TV SHOW

King of the Hill

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

50



AGE: 33

BORN: NOV. 23, 1971

GREENWOOD, MS

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Braveheart

TV SHOW

Friends

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Roger Clemens

59



TEAM PRIDE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$14.95

YOUTH 8-20 SIZES S-XL. \$12.95

BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$9.95

INDIANS POLYCARBONATE BOTTLE \$8.00

From Betras Plastics.

I LOVE INDIANS BROOCH \$12.00

From Aminco.

TEAM PRIDE TEE SHIRT
From Nutmeg.
ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$14.95
YOUTH 8-20 SIZES S-XL. \$12.95
BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$9.95

TURNDOWN SHORT CREW SOCK \$8.00
From For Bare Feet. Sizes 7-9, 9-11, 10-13.

INDIANS WRAP SUNGLASSES \$10.00
From Hunter.

INDIANS POLYCARBONATE BOTTLE \$8.00
From Betras Plastics.



TEAM PRIDE SWEATSHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$24.95

YOUTH 8-20 SIZES M-XL. \$22.95

BOYS 4-7 SIZES S-L. \$16.95

INDIANS CARABINER KEY TAG \$6.00

From Peter David.

Visit any of our seven Team Shop locations and get in gear.

To Order Call 1.800.38TRIBE



PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

YOUTH SIZES S-XL. \$16.00

Crisp (youth available)

Martinez (youth available)

YOUTH CRISP CAP \$15.00

From New Era. Ages 6-10 years.



PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

YOUTH SIZES S-XL. \$16.00

Hafner (youth available)

Sabathia (youth available)

SIGNATURE PRONK CAP \$20.00

From Twins. Adjustable.



PLAYER SIGNATURE TEE SHIRT

From Nutmeg.

ADULT SIZES M-2X. \$20.00

Belliard

Broussard

PLAYER JERSEY BASEBALLS \$5.00

From Rawlings.

Casey Blake

Aaron Boone

Ronnie Belliard

Victor Martinez

Travis Hafner

C.C. Sabathia

Coco Crisp

MINI GLOVE BALLHOLDER \$8.00

From Rawlings.



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To Order Call 1.800.38TRIBE



AUTHENTIC ALTERNATE ROAD JERSEY \$180.00

From Majestic. Sizes 40-56.

AUTHENTIC ROAD CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

AUTHENTIC HOME JERSEY \$180.00

From Majestic. Sizes 40-56.

AUTHENTIC HOME CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".



AUTHENTIC TEE SHIRT \$18.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.

AUTHENTIC ALTERNATE HOME CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

AUTHENTIC PREMIER JACKET \$110.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.



AUTHENTIC BATTING PRACTICE CAP \$25.00

From New Era. Sizes S/M, M/L, L/XL.

AUTHENTIC BATTING PRACTICE JERSEY \$68.00

From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.

OFFICIAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL \$18.00

From Rawlings. Ball holder included.



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Team Shop locations.



Belden Village, Canton	330.497.8008
Great Lakes Mall, Mentor	440.974.0587
Great Northern Mall, N. Olmsted	440.777.7142
Jacobs Field	216.420.4444
Midway Mall, Elyria	440.324.3166
SouthPark Centre, Strongsville	440.572.8305
Summit Mall, Fairlawn	330.869.9639
Mail Order	1.800.38.TRIBE



JAKE WESTBROOK

Starting pitcher

JAKE WESTBROOK'S 2004 SEASON COULDN'T have been any more spectacular. Fourteen wins. Third in the American League in earned-run average. A relief appearance where he retired 21 straight batters. And his first All-Star appearance. So how is it possible that with all that excitement, No. 37 claims to have the world's most boring locker? "What can I say? Heck, I don't even have a picture of my wife in here."

RATTY PURPLE T-SHIRT

I wouldn't say it's my lucky shirt, but I do wear it every day. And I mean every day. When I first got it, it was navy blue. Now, it's kind of y'know, purple.

MITTS

One's my pitching glove and the other one is the one I use to shag fly balls during batting practice. Believe me, though, until it really starts warming up, I might be out there shagging, but I'm not exactly power shagging.

TETRIS

Whenever I have free time, I play. We've all really started to get into it lately. It's pretty addictive, to tell you the truth. Now we have contests to see who can finish in the fastest time. I'm leading right now, but Wickman is pretty good. He'll probably catch me.

TWO BASEBALLS IN A SOCK

I grabbed two balls from when I started on Opening Day in Chicago this year. I wanted to have something to remember the day.

JERSEYS

We have four jerseys — a gray one, a blue one, a white one, and a sleeveless white. I'm not a big fashion guy, but I think the blue one looks the best.

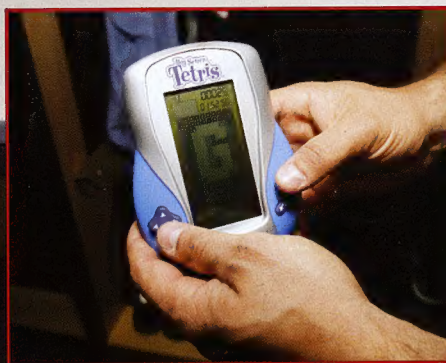
WEDDING RING

I never wear my ring when I'm playing — it just doesn't feel right on my hand. Plus, I don't want to mess it up. My wife's OK with it. I mean, it's not like she'd be able to see it while it's under my glove.

CHERRY FLAVORED LIP BALM

I use it every day. I'm from Georgia. My lips aren't used to this kind of weather.

— Lane Strauss



All photos: Gregory Drezdson